

[F. C. Curtis]

in the work of the blind.

Of course music has always been my life work and I love it. I believe every body should love music because it can bring so much happiness.

A person that dont like music you better be careful of.

Jazz and swing are really destroying good music. A number of the old beautiful melodies are being ruined by swing [trend?] that they intill in them. My favorite compositions are the last Hope, by Godshea; Whispering Wind- Waldinghope; Moonlight [Sermatta?], Bettwovin; and [Lieses?]

Hungarian Rapsody No.II.

I have several arrangement to my credit, and there musical scores I have never considered my blindness a handicap, it has been more like a blessing, I have not had to face many obstacles that one with eyes has had too.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20

DATE November 14, 1938 SUBJECT American Folk-lore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT F.C. Curtis -235 S. St.

"I was born in Galesburg in 1869, so there for I'm going on seventy years old. When I was six years old I lost my sight in one my left eye. It was just like kids do so much throwin' rocks. A year later I got my right eye cut with a piece of glass and lost the sight of it.

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The one vivid picture that stands out in my memory is my mother face as I could remember her before my right eye was lost by blindness.

I can recall here particularly as she and I knelt down in prayer at our church in Galesburg on a Sunday and she would put her hand on my head and sing her favorite hymn: 'Oh How happy are they who the Savior obeys, and have layed up their treasures above, Tongue cannot express that sweet comfort and rest, O the soul in its earliest love.

I didn't start to school until I was fifteen, then I went to a blind institute at Wyandotte Kansas for three years. Later I entered the blind institute at Nebraska City and graduated in 1894 with a B.A. in music. Since then I have taught in Lincoln and have had as many as sixty students at one time all of whom were white. I think I am the only colored man in this country that has been at the head of a white school of music.

I think that my success in teaching music has made it possible for other blind men of this state to carry on their vocations profitably.

because people that have all of their senses are becoming more confident

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th.

DATE November 14, 1938 SUBJECT American Folk-lore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT F. C. Curtis, [2235 S. St.?)

1. Ancestry - Negro
2. Place and date of birth - Galesburg, Ill. - 1869
3. Family -2 sisters.

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4. Place lived in, with dates - Galesburg until 1891, Nebraska up to the present.
5. Education, with dates. B.A. in Music.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates - music teacher of piano, violin, voice.
7. Special skills and interests - [Broommaker?], piano tuner, cane chairs, fancy needle work.
8. Community and religious activities - Methodist.
9. Description of informant. - He is blind, tall slender brown skinned.
10. Other points gained in interview - Does his own cooking and house work. Rents out two rooms upstairs to University students. Handles his own business affairs. House is very tidy and neat.

FORM A

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th

DATE November 14, 1938 SUBJECT American Folk-lore

1. Name and address of informant - Mr. F.C.Curtis -2235 S. St.
2. Date and time of interview- November 14, 10:30 - 12 - 2 - A.M.
3. Place of interview - Residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant, Personal acquaintance.
5. Name and address of person, if any accompany you. -None

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6. Description of room, house, surrounds, etc., - Fairly large two story house, Interview in parlor, plainly but comfortably furnished with studio couch on one side, radio, piano and two overstuffed chairs. [??]